(d) the details and funds demanded and actually released to the Government of Maharashtra project-wise during the current year and claims pending together with reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Funds for maintenance and repair of National Highways are allocated State-wise and lump-sum basis and not road-wise project-wise. During the year 1995-96, an amount of Rs. 2579.33 lakhs was allocated to the State of Maharashtra.

(c) and (d) Due to inadequate allocation and contained resource crunch allolcation of funds is only about 50% of the requirement for the maintenance repair of National Highways to all the States. During the current year, an amount of Rs. 2733.04 lakhs (12/96) has accordingly been allocated.

**New Policy for Development of National Highways**

534. DR. B. B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have approved recently a new policy for National Highways Development;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the priorities of Government so far as development of National Highways are concerned;

(d) whether areas have been identified for private investment; and

(e) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The salient features of new National Highway (NH) policy are as follows:—

(i) Simplification of land acquisition and environmental clearance procedure.

(ii) Collection of toll in perpetuity on improved four mane sections of N.Hs. to be used for further development of N Hs.

(iii) Guidelines finalised for taking up NH projects on Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis providing inter-alia for award of work through competitive bidding on least cost to user.

(iv) The Govt. enabled to make capital Investment in National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) for leveraging the same to raise further resources from market.

(c) The priority for the development of N.Hs. is for four laning of high Traffic density corridors linking Delhi, Calcutta, Madras and Mumbai and the roads leading to Ports.

(d) and (e) projects relating to by-passes, bridges, road over bridges and four laning of existing sections of N.Hs. which on the basis of taffic density are financially viable and bankable are proposed to be taken up through private sector.

**Policy for support to Ship-building Industry**

535. DR. JAGANNATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that in the absence of any concrete policy on supporting the beleaguered ship building industry, many of its yards would face imminent closure and may destroy a crore and strategic industry;

(b) whether Government had received any demand from that industry, if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action Government have taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) Many countries the world over have been supporting the Shipbuilding industry with incentives such as subsidy, tax concessions, etc. In order to have level playing field, Indian shipbuilding industry requires support

especially for construction of ocean-going ships.

(b) and (c) The shipbuilding industry has requested Government for extension of subsidy scheme which lapsed in September, 1995 and also to include subsidy for export orders. Their request has been processed and inter-Ministerial consultations are underway.

**Grains exported through Indian Ports**

536. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the total volume of grains exported through Indian Ports in 1995-96;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is delay at ports in export of grains; and

(c) the steps proposed to adopt Indian ports for the efficient export of grains?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) A quantity of 4320124 metric tonnes of grains was exported through Indian Sea Ports during the financial year 1995-96.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

**Foodgrains exported from Visakhapatnam Port**

537. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of foodgrains exported through Visakhapatnam Port in Andhra Pradesh in 1994-95 and 1995-96;

(b) whether adequate arrangements are there for rice export from Visakhapatnam;

(c) whether it is a fact that long delays are there for rice exports from Visakhapatnam; and

(d) the steps proposed to enhance capacity for foodgrains exports from Visakhapatnam?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) The quantity of foodgrains exported through Visakhapatnam Port during the financial years 1994-95 and 1995-96 are as under:—

| | (in tonnes) |
|---|---|
| 1994-95 | 36,689 |
| 1995-96 | 3,86,272 |

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) No need has been felt by the Port for enhancing the capacity for foodgrains export as sufficient facilities are existing.

**Financial assistance for development of National Highways during Eighth-Five Year Plan**

538. SHRI JANARDAN YADAV: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the fund allotted to different States for construction and development of National Highways during Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether Government of Bihar had sought financial assistance for the purpose; and

(c) if so, the details of amount sanctioned to Bihar in that plan period?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) A statement is annexed (*See* below).

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Rs. 83.75 crores.